

## Message Text

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44

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-14 ISO-00 PM-07 NSC-10 SPC-03 SAM-01

SS-20 RSC-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-04

USIA-15 PRS-01 L-03 EB-11 DRC-01 /147 W

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R 081425Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3183

INFO AMEMBASSY MEXICO CITY

USMISSION GENEVA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, MX, VT

SUBJECT: MEXICAN-VATICAN RELATIONS

REF: STATE 025468

1. INTERVIEW WITH MEXICAN PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA APPEARING IN FEB. I ROME DAILY "IL MESSAGGERO" CONTAINED FOLLOWING QUESTION AND ANSWER ABOUT VATICAN PORTION OF VISIT:

Q. DURING YOUR TRIP IN ITALY YOU WILL ALSO GO TO THE VATICAN FOR A TALK WITH PAUL VI. CAN THIS INITIATIVE OF YOURS BE CONSIDERED AS A FIRST STEP TOWARD THE RE-ESTABLISHMENT OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS BETWEEN MEXICO AND THE HOLY SEE?

A. "NO, NO A RE-ESTABLISHMENT OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS, WHICH WOULD BE UNCONSTITUTIONAL. WE ARE GOING TO SEE THE POPE BECAUSE WE SHARE THE SAME PREOCCUPATIONS FOR WORLD PEACE AND FOR THE SITUATION IN THE UNDERDEVELOPED COUNTRIES AND IN THE THIRD WORLD. THE VATICAN DELEGATE IN GENEVA EXPRESSED HIMSELF IN AUTHORITATIVE TERMS FOR OUR INITIATIVE AT THE UN AND FOR OUR "CHARTER". THUS, WE ARE GOING TO THE VATICAN FOR THESE REASONS; DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS ARE NOT INVOLVED."

2. OUR VATICAN SOURCES ALSO SEE NO POSSIBILITY OF ESTABLISHMENT  
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DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS. NEVERTHELESS, VATICAN SOURCES GENERALLY

AGREE THAT CALL OF POPE PAUL INTENDED AS GESTURE TO MEXICAN  
CATHOLICS AND PRESIDENT'S JUSTIFICATION OF VISIT IN CONTEXT OF  
POPE'S INTEREST IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AND CHARTER OF ECONOMIC  
RIGHTS AND DUTIES IS MAINLY DEVICE TO SCOTCH ANY CRITICISM  
FROM MEXICAN ANTI-CLERICAL QUARTERS. VOLPE

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** ITINERARY, PRESS COMMENTS, DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS ESTABLISHMENT, CHIEF OF STATE VISITS, CHURCH STATE RELATIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
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**Draft Date:** 08 FEB 1974  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** morefirh  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1974ROME01880  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
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**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** n/a  
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**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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